

**More than \$220,000 Federal Grant Will Establish High-Speed Internet Access for Homes and Businesses in the Cleveland Community**

***10 New Computer Workstations Will be Added to the Town Hall in Cleveland***

**(Washington, DC)** - U.S. Representative Rick Boucher announced today that, at his urging, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Rural Utilities Service, is providing a federal grant in the amount of \$220,650 to establish access to high-speed broadband services in the Cleveland community of Russell County. Residents and businesses in the Town of Cleveland currently have no access to high-speed broadband services. Rather, local residents and businesses are reliant on much slower methods of accessing the Internet to conduct business or for personal use. With the federal funding announced today, Almega Cable will deploy fiber optic cable from its Internet backbone, across the "last mile," to homes and businesses in Cleveland.

In addition to the broadband services which will become available, the federal Rural Utilities Service grant will be used to purchase 10 new computer workstations to establish a public, free of charge Internet access site at the Town Hall in Cleveland. High speed Internet service will also be extended to the Cleveland Police Department, Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department, and Cleveland Elementary School at no cost for two years. Boucher noted that the new broadband services will greatly improve the Internet access in the Cleveland Community.

**"The economic development of Southwest Virginia is my top priority. With the federal funding I have announced today, high-speed Internet services will soon become available to the residents and business owners of the Cleveland community. This is another step in bringing broadband services to all of Russell County and will open many new doors to expand and stimulate the County's economy,"** Boucher concluded.